

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Iran	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	The Consolidation of the Iranian Armed Customs Guard and Border Command	DATE DISTR.	16 April 1954	
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		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
		REFERENCES		25X1

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1. In addition to the request for postponement, the Iranian Border Guard Command proposed to Army Headquarters that:
 - a. in accordance with the Council of Ministers' decree, prior to 4 February 1954 the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Finance, and the General Administration for Customs should prepare and approve regulations governing this reorganization, so that the Border Command might be apprized of its own fields of jurisdiction and authority prior to assuming its new functions;
 - b. the Customs Guard should continue, until 21 March 1954, prevention of smuggling activities in the border areas (the Border Command is unable to understand why the Customs Police, whose duty it is to guard the customs warehouses, should remain on the border strip under the new set-up);
 - c. the new budget be "appropriated," effective 21 March 1954;
 - d. a committee, consisting of the Chiefs of the Gendarmeries¹ and the Border Command and a representative from the Customs Guard, be set up at Army Headquarters to determine the specific duties of each command.
2. The Border Command also requested clarification of its responsibility in connection with the control of smuggling activities on the border, and indicated that, if other units such as the Customs Police or the Gendarmerie were also to have this duty, the Border Guard would refuse to accept responsibility.¹

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3. The Border Guard presented the following organizational plan which it considered necessary for the successful implementation of its new duties:
- a. Approximately 26 battalions, composed of Customs Guard and military units, should be stationed along both the land and sea borders in order to prevent smuggling activities.
 - b. Honest and reliable officers should be selected and vested with disciplinary powers over all military and civil departments.
 - c. The number of border posts should be increased to approximately 700.

25X1A 1 Comment. The Gendarmerie is not inclined to disband its posts or battalion and company units on the border strips, and maintains that, although the Gendarmerie is of a military nature, it represents justice ("the law") and can therefore send its men to any part of the country where they are needed. The Gendarmerie will, however, withdraw its men from the border if instructed to do so by the Ministry of the Interior.

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